

their own and were publishing a weekly newspaper and numerous religious works. Within five years over half the Cherokees were able to read; eight churches and many schools had been erected; while all were profiting of the arts and industries of civilized life. But now here comes a power that is bent solely on crushing the original and lawful inhabitants of American soil; a power that has always been encroaching and still continues to encroach upon the rights of the poor Indians, appears once more this time to deprive them of their country, nay, their very homes. It was the government of the United States prompted and even impelled by the Georgian Congress that caused the Cherokee land to be seized and all its inhabitants to be removed by force beyond the Mississippi. In 1830 the Congress of Georgia passed a law depriving them of all privileges hitherto granted them. "Thus," says Drake, "was the axe not only laid at the root of the tree of Cherokee liberty, but it was also shortly to be wielded by the strong arm of power with deadly effect." At once commenced the persecutions; the natives were forbidden to hunt, farm or mine on their own lands; their great educator, the weekly newspaper, was seized; their schools were closed and teachers forbidden to instruct. "The gigantic silver pipe which George Washington placed in the hands of the Cherokees, as a memorial of his warm and abiding friendship, has ceased to reciprocate; it lies in the corner of the executive chamber, cold like its author to rise no more."—(The Phoenix, 1834.)

A small minority made a treaty in 1835 to the effect that all the Cherokees should move westward. The order for their removal was given in the following year; its execution began at once. History does not record the terrible miseries and horrors of this long march.

Why? Because it has no compassion for the Cherokees, no sympathy for the red-men. What a pitiful spectacle to see, eighteen thousand poor Indians driven from their homes to distant lands, and out of the number, over one fourth dying on the march, nay, almost four hundred alone drowning in the deep Mississippi!

The United States located the survivors on a tract of land comprising 1861 square miles, in the north-eastern part of the Indian Territory. Though hilly and rocky, this reservation is about the best of those owned by the Five Civilized tribes. During the first year after their forced emigration, the United States supplied them with provisions, clothing, and established schools, etc. Rival factions still continued to strive for the ascendancy in the nation till the year 1839, when the Ridges and Boudinot leaders of the faction that had favored emigration, were assassinated, and the Ross party became the ruling power.

Steady progress toward civilization, lately interrupted and retarded by the forced removal of the Cherokees, now once more began its rapid onward movement. By the year 1861 the Cherokees were highly civilized and prosperous farmers; but alas, the dreadful civil war was to be another death blow to their advanced state. Their country was ravaged, their houses were burnt, and their cattle and stock driven away, or killed, to the amount of \$2,000,000, so that "when the war closed," says Ross, "there was not a hog or a footprint of one to be found in the country." Three years after the war the death rate exceeded the birth-rate by 3,000. The Cherokees, however, were not a people to be discouraged, or hindered by disasters. Scarcely a decade after the war, these people were rapidly recuperating from its sad effects. They had 90,000 acres in cultivation and owned 190,000 head